

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BONN 08762 01 OF 03 231704Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
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DLOS-09 COME-00 /092 W
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R 231656Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8460
INFO USMISSION USBERLIN
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 03 BONN 08762

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, GE, GW
SUBJECT: CHANCELLERY OFFICIAL'S COMMENT ON
FRG-GDR NEGOTIATIONS

REFS: (A) USBER 1343; (B) BERLIN 6030;
(C) BONN 7935; (D) USBER 1263

1. EMBOFF AT A LUNCH WHICH HAD BEEN SCHEDULED
FOR SOME DAYS, ON MAY 20 EMBOFF BRIEFED STERN,
CHANCELLERY OFFICE DIRECTOR RESPONSIBLE FOR FRG/GDR
RELATIONS, ON BASIS OF REFTEL B. HE WAS GRATEFUL FOR
THE INFORMATION AND FOUND IT PARTICULARLY INTERESTING
THAT THE GDR MFA HAD CHOSEN TO DISCUSS WITH EMBASSY
EAST BERLIN THE SUBJECT OF INNER-GERMAN RELATIONS. HE
COMMENTED THAT THE MFA MIGHT HAVE DONE SO BOTH AS A
DISPLAY OF ITS WILLINGNESS TO NEGOTIATE AND IN ORDER
TO BE ABLE TO SHOW LATER THAT ANY FAILURE IN RESULTS
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PAGE 02 BONN 08762 01 OF 03 231704Z

OF NEGOTIATIONS WAS NOT FAULT OF THE GDR.

2. IN ANSWER TO EMBOFF'S QUESTIONS, STERN MADE THE
FOLLOWING COMMENTS ON THE FRG/GDR NEGOTIATIONS:

GDR WILLINGNESS TO NEGOTIATE

THE RECENT REMARKS BY HONECKER (REF B) ARE A CONTINUATION OF THE SAME LINE ADOPTED BY THE GDR AND DO NOT SHOW A CHANGE FROM THE LATTER'S DECLARATIONS OF A WILLINGNESS TO NEGOTIATE. THE GDR HAS CONSISTENTLY SAID THAT IT WAS PREPARED TO NEGOTIATE SPECIFIC ISSUES AND HAS JUST AS CONSISTENTLY COME DOWN HARD ON ISSUES SUCH AS THE NATIONALITY QUESTION. STERN REGARDS HONECKER'S STATEMENTS AS AN ANSWER TO SCHMIDT AND THE LONDON DECLARATION, WHICH HONECKER FELT COMPELLED TO ANSWER. HE SAID THAT SCHMIDT'S RECENT STATEMENTS (REF A) AND HONECKER'S REPLIES ARE NOT CONDUCTIVE TO A GOOD ATMOSPHERE.

PRESENT STATE OF SOUNDINGS

STERN SAID THAT HE, PERSONALLY, REGRETS THE FRG HAS TAKEN SO LONG TO PREPARE THE PACKAGE. HE SAID THAT FRG WAS INDIGNANT AT THE DISCOVERY OF A SPY IN THE OFFICE OF LOECK, THE NUMBER 2 MAN IN THE CHANCELLERY DIVISION RESPONSIBLE FOR FOREIGN AND INNER-GERMAN RELATIONS. LOECK HAS BEEN INTIMATELY INVOLVED IN THE PREPARATION OF THE NEGOTIATING PACKAGE AND THE FRG ANGER HAS CAUSED THE FRG TO DELAY THE INITIAL WISCHNEW-SKI/KOHL CONVERSATIONS. HOWEVER, THEY ARE EXPECTED TO COMMENCE SHORTLY. HE CONFIRMED THAT THE FOCUS WILL THEN SHIFT TO GAUS' SOUNDINGS WITH THE GDR IN EAST BERLIN. STERN SAID THAT IT IS IMPORTANT FOR THE FRG NOT TO ATTEMPT TO MOVE TOO QUICKLY. (COMMENT: WE HAVE BEEN INFORMED BY GERHARD KUNZE OF BERLIN SENAT CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 BONN 08762 01 OF 03 231704Z

THAT HE EXPECTS NO SUBSTANTIVE NEGOTIATIONS BEFORE MID OR LATE SUMMER BECAUSE OF SUMMER VACATION SCHEDULE.)

S-BAHN

EMBOFF SAID HE HAD UNDERSTOOD THERE WAS LITTLE FRG OR SENAT INTEREST IN PURSUING THE QUESTION OF THE S-BAHN AND ASKED WHY THIS WAS ON THE LIST. STERN SAID HE PERSONALLY AGREED THAT THE S-BAHN WAS NOT A MATTER WHICH SHOULD BE PURSUED BUT THAT "NEW" PEOPLE IN THE FRG, WHO HAD NOT SHARED IN THE THOROUGH FRG REVIEW OF THIS MATTER SOME TIME AGO, FELT THERE WAS NO HARM IN DISCUSSING IT WITH THE GDR SINCE THE GDR IS ANXIOUS TO FIND A RESOLUTION OF THE PROBLEM. HE SAID THIS WAS THE VERY SIMPLE EXPLANATION AND THAT THERE IS NO FRG PLAN TO TRADE CONCESSIONS ON THE S-BAHN FOR GDR CONCESSIONS IN OTHER AREA.

FRG/GDR UMBRELLA FOR TALKS

HE SAID PREDICTABLY THAT THE FRG IS, OF COURSE,

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PAGE 01 BONN 08762 02 OF 03 231706Z
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 03 BONN 08762

ANXIOUS TO ESTABLISH THE NECESSARY BILATERAL FRG/GDR
UMBRELLA FOR THOSE MATTERS FOR WHICH THE FRG CLAIMS
COMPETENCE, EVEN THOUGH THE SENAT MAY DISCUSS ASPECTS
OF THEM. SOMEWHAT UNEXPECTEDLY, HE SAID THAT THE FRG
SEES NO NEED TO ESTABLISH SUCH A COVER FOR MATTERS WHICH
ONLY CONCERN BERLIN AND FOR WHICH THE FRG CLAIMS NO
COMPETENCE, ALTHOUGH THE FRG WILL TAKE THEM UP WITH THE
GDR IN ORDER TO GET TALKS STARTED. AS AN EXAMPLE,
HE SAID THE FRG WOULD UNDERTAKE TO NEGOTIATE THE
PROBLEM OF THE BERLIN WATERWAYS SINCE IT INVOLVES
ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS, FOR WHICH THE FRG CLAIMS
COMPETENCE. WHEN THE MATTER WAS CONFINED TO BERLIN
WATER SUPPLY, THE FRG WAS CONTENT TO LEAVE THE MATTER
TO THE SENAT. LIKEWISE, WITH RESPECT TO THE NORTHERN
CROSSING POINT, THE FRG WOULD LEAVE NEGOTIATIONS TO
THE SENAT IF THEY ONLY TREATED THE QUESTIONS OF VISITOR
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PAGE 02 BONN 08762 02 OF 03 231706Z

TRAFFIC AND OF TRAVEL BETWEEN SCANDINAVIA AND WEST BERLIN. HOWEVER, IF THEY INCLUDE "WECHSELVERKEHR," E.G. COMMERCIAL TRAVEL BETWEEN EAST GERMANY AND WEST BERLIN, THAT IS A MATTER FOR FRG COMPETENCE.

REPORT OF NEW GDR REGULATION MAKING REQUESTS TO EMIGRATE ILLEGAL

STERN SAID THAT HE DOES NOT BELIEVE THAT RECENT REPORTS ON THIS SUBJECT ARE TRUE AND THAT GAUS, WHEN HE INQUIRED OF THE GDR, WAS TOLD THAT HE WAS MIXING IN INTERNAL GDR AFFAIRS. STERN SAID THAT, IN EFFECT, THE GDR HAS TAKEN MEASURES AGAINST WOULD-BE EMIGRES AND HAS NO NEED FOR A NEW REGULATION.

REPORTED ADDITIONAL TELEPHONE LINES

HE SAID THAT HE HAD NO KNOWLEDGE OF THE REPORT DESCRIBED IN REF D AND SAID HE THOUGHT THE PRESENT TELEPHONE SERVICE IS ADEQUATE, ALTHOUGH SOMETIMES BARELY SO. IN ANY CASE, IT IS NOT PART OF THE CURRENT NEGOTIATING PACKAGE.

DECLINE IN EMIGRATION FROM GDR

STERN REPEATED WHAT WE HAD HEARD EARLIER FROM THE MINISTRY OF INNER-GERMAN AFFAIRS, I.E., THAT ABOUT 10,000 LEGAL EMIGRANTS LEFT THE GDR LAST YEAR, IN ADDITION TO SOME 5,000 ILLEGAL EMIGRANTS (MOSTLY VIA THIRD COUNTRIES). OF THE 10,000, ABOUT HALF ARE PENSIONERS AND THE OTHER HALF ARE LAWYERS' CASES AND CASES OF FAMILY REUNIFICATION. THE FRG HAS TO PAY A PRICE FOR ALL OF LATTER GROUP OF 5,000 WITH THOSE IN PRISON BEING THE MOST COSTLY. HE SAID THAT FIGURES HE HAD SEEN SHOW THE NUMBER OF EMIGRES THUS FAR THIS YEAR TO BE SOME 20 TO 30 PERCENT, ON AN ANNUALIZED
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CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BONN 08762 02 OF 03 231706Z

BASIS, BELOW THE NUMBER FOR LAST YEAR. HOWEVER, IT IS TOO EARLY TO SAY THAT THIS IS A TREND. (COMMENT: THE FRG, IN REPLY TO A RECENT QUESTION IN PARLIAMENT, SAID THAT 853 PEOPLE HAD LEFT THE GDR IN THE FIRST THREE MONTHS OF 1977 FOR THE PURPOSE OF FAMILY REUNIFICATION, "THOUGH THE SPECIAL EFFORTS OF THE FRG.")

ELBE RIVER QUESTION

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PAGE 01 BONN 08762 03 OF 03 231706Z
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 03 OF 03 BONN 08762

HE SAID THAT THE GDR HAS HINTED IT MIGHT BE
POSSIBLE TO NEGOTIATE A "PRACTICAL SOLUTION" TO THE
ELBE RIVER QUESTION AND THAT IT MIGHT NOT BE NECESSARY
TO EXCLUDE IT FROM THE NEGOTIATIONS.

IMPORTANCE OF NEGOTIATIONS

STERN SAID THAT, WHILE THE NEGOTIATIONS REPRESENT
A NEW ELEMENT, THEY ARE NOT NEARLY AS IMPORTANT AS
THOSE OF 1971/72 AND THAT THE FRG DOES NOT ATTACH
EXCESSIVE WEIGHT TO THEM.
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